

Board of Selectmen
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA)
Updated September 16, 2021 Overview

INTRODUCTION

- American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed into law on March 11, 2021 by President Biden
- Funding is provided by the US Treasury
- State of CT OPM is a pass through for funding only
- Guidelines are based on the US Treasury Interim Final Rule
- The Fiscal Recovery Funds are intended to provide support to State, local and Tribal governments in responding to the impact of Covid-19 and in their efforts to contain Covid-19 in their communities, residents, and businesses
- Woodstock Total is approximately \$2,325,578.66
- Payments to NEU (Non-entitlement Units) will be sent by OPM in 2 Tranches
- First Payment of \$1,162,789.33 received in June 2021
- Second Payment will be sent approximately one year later (June 2022)
- Funding is for Covid -19 related harm from March 2021 to December 2024 -Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 (Future Planning)
- Payments on expenditures must be expended by December 31, 2026 or must be returned to the US Treasury

ELIGIBLE USES (Categories) – *See Interim Final Rule, FAQ’s, Federal Register Vol 86, No. 93

- Support public health response to contain and mitigate the spread of Covid -19
- Address negative economic impacts (assistance to households, small and non-profit businesses, and aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality through grants and loans)
- Replace loss of revenue (Once a shortfall in revenue is identified, local governments have a broad latitude to use the funds to support government services)
- Making needed investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure
- Funding may be transferred to special-purpose units (fire, water, sewer)

NON-ELIGIBLE USES - *See Interim Final Rule, FAQ’s, Federal Register Vol 86, No.93

- Funding cannot be used to pay down unfunded pension
- Applying as matching funds towards other federal grants
- Paying interest or principal on outstanding debt or legal settlements
- Contributing to “rainy day” funds
- Offset taxes

CONSULTING

- Funds may be used to hire a Program Administrator or Consultant which will include salary and benefits

REPORTING

- Woodstock is a NEU (Non-Entitlement Unit-meaning that the population is under 50,000 residents) and therefore, requirements for reporting to the US Treasury is annually by October 31 of each year beginning October 31, 2021.
- NEU's (Woodstock) are required to complete the Project and Expenditure Report (annually not quarterly)
- Woodstock is not required to complete the Interim Reporting by August 31, 2021
- Woodstock is not required to complete the Recovery Plan Performance Report

WOODSTOCK'S PLAN

- First Selectman Jay Swan and Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick have spent the past 5 months working with COST, CCM, OPM, Auditors and NECCOG and other area town's First Selectman gathering information on how the program works, a better definition on what funds can be used for, how to apply for funding, reporting requirements, consulting services and how to best serve their communities
- First Selectman Jay Swan has been having discussions with key personnel regarding public health and safety. These include Director of Public Works, WPCA President, BOF Chairman, Fire Marshal, EMS Director, Chief Constable, WPCA Chairman and TEEG
- Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick has been attending webinars and will continue when available
- Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick and Business Manager for the BOE Janice Thurlow are currently working with our Audit Manager Mike VanDeventer from Mahoney Sabol providing revenue data which is needed to complete an analysis on the Revenue Loss. This calculation is listed in Interim Final Rule.
- Upon completion and determining if the town can replace loss of revenue the Board of Selectman can begin discussion on uses of the funds

HOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

- Visit the Town of Woodstock website at www.woodstockct.gov
- Attend a Board of Selectmen or Board of Finance Meeting
- Read the Shopper's Guide and the Woodstock Villager Newspaper
- Listen to WINY Radio Station or like them on Facebook
- Follow the Town of Woodstock's Facebook Page
- Call the First Selectman's Office at 860-928-0208 x310
- Send questions or inquiries to the town's dedicated email at arpa2021@woodstockct.gov

WHAT'S NEW

The Board of Selectmen will host a Zoom meeting on the third (3rd) Thursday (excluding holidays) of each month to have open discussion regarding the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

There will be an open public forum on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. The public forum will take place immediately after a Special Town Meeting which will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Woodstock Middle School Gymnasium. Both meetings will be held in a hybrid format.

